



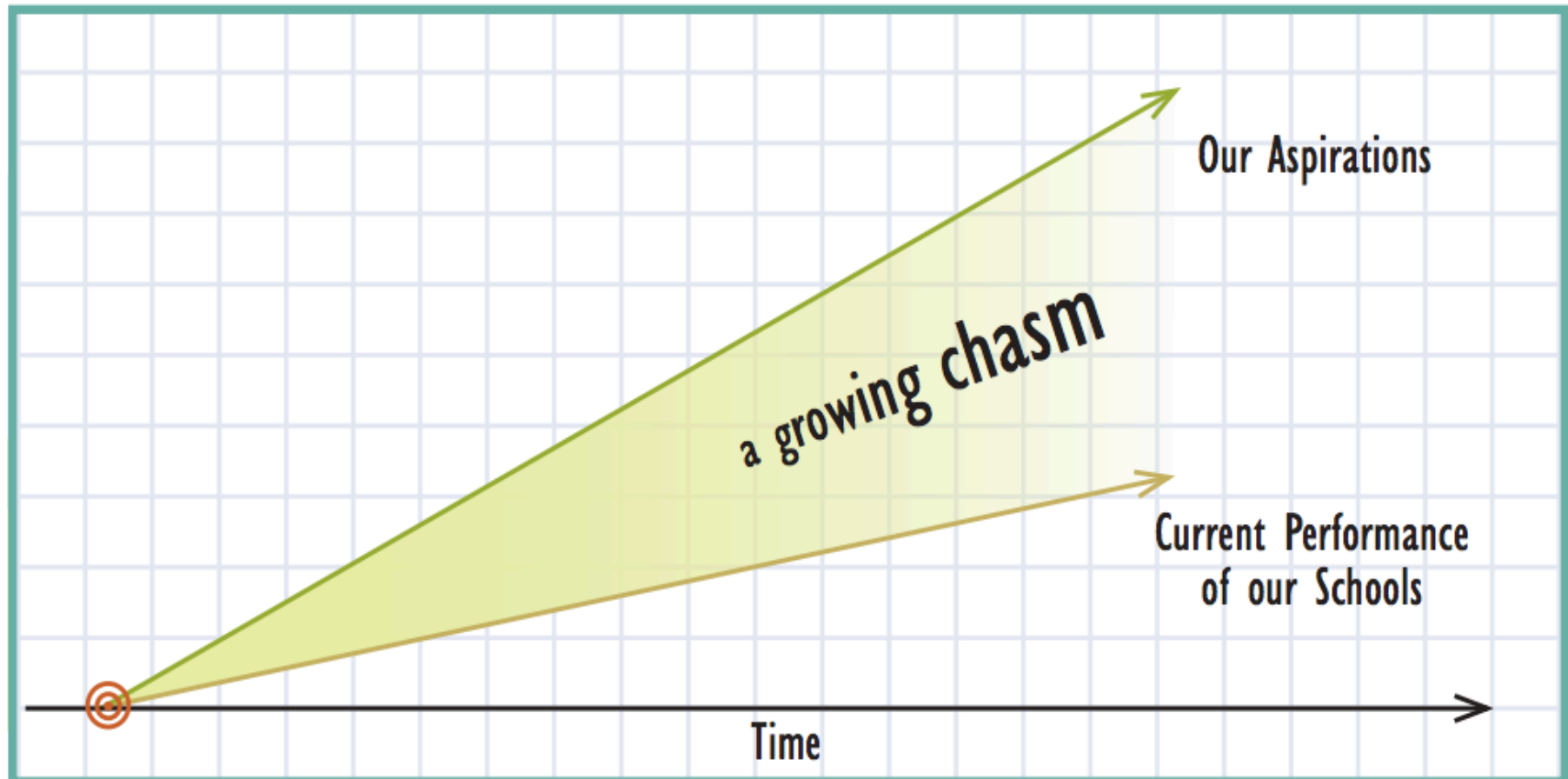
# Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance

Meeting #5  
Richard C. Seder  
January 9, 2018

# Agenda

- Opening remarks from Interim Committee
- Framing remarks
- Capital Construction
- District Organization
- Next steps – working groups discussion
  - Working groups
  - Deeper analysis; move to design
- Public testimony

# Framing: How Do We Think About Systemic Approaches to Meeting These Challenges?



Graphic courtesy of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

FourPoint Education Partners

# **CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION**

# Capital Construction Assistance

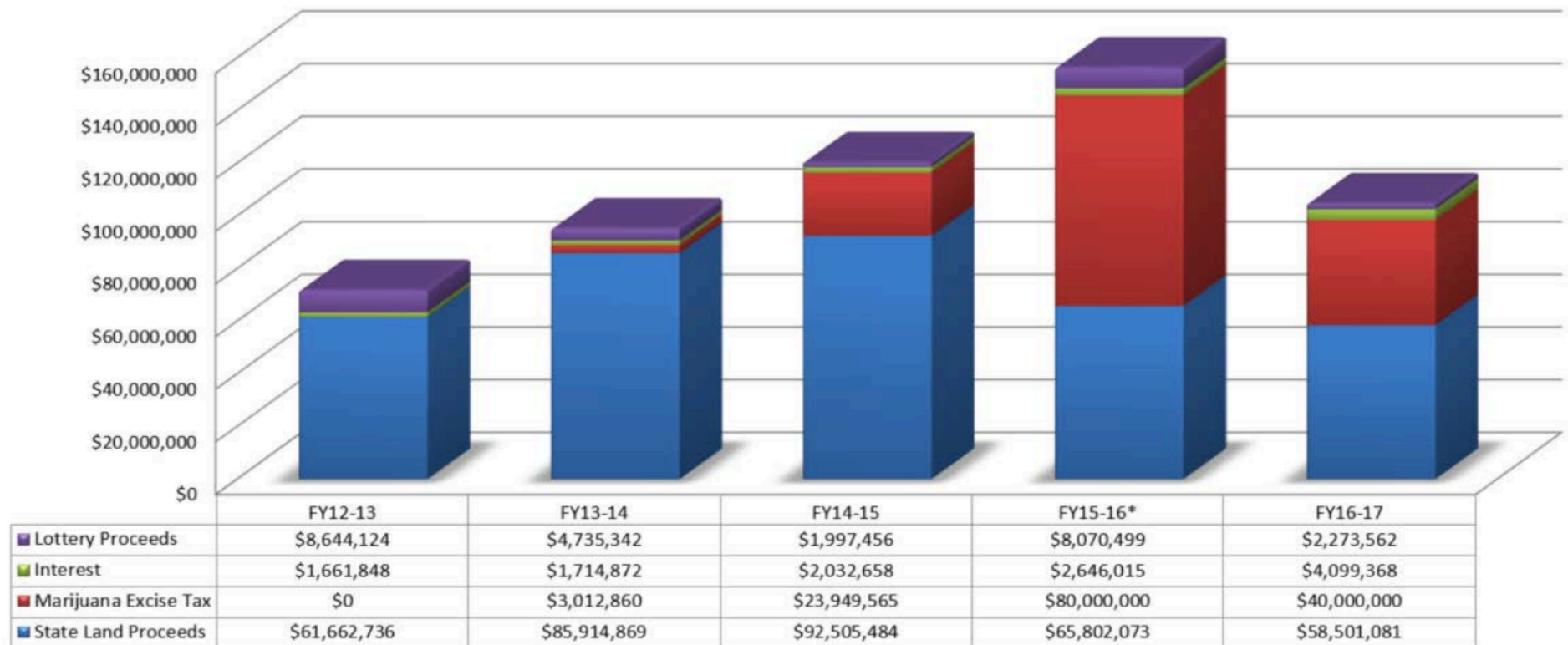
- Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program.
  - Sliding scale matching grants program
  - Similar in purpose to most states in the nation
    - Small handful of states require no matching funds
    - Handful of states provide no assistance)
- Charter School Capital Construction.
  - Annual Legislative appropriation distributed to charter schools on a per-pupil basis for capital construction needs
  - \$25 million in 2016-17

# Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST)

- Established in 2008 to provide matching grant funding to education institutions for major maintenance and construction.
- Nine-member appointed Capital Construction Assistance Board work with staff to review grant applications annually.
- Local match determined by several measures of district wealth (assessed value per pupil, median household income), student needs (FRL eligibility), bonding capacity & bonding success.

# BEST Program Revenue

## Revenue Sources



\*FY15-16 revenues included a one-time disbursement of \$40M from Proposition BB (Nov. 2015)

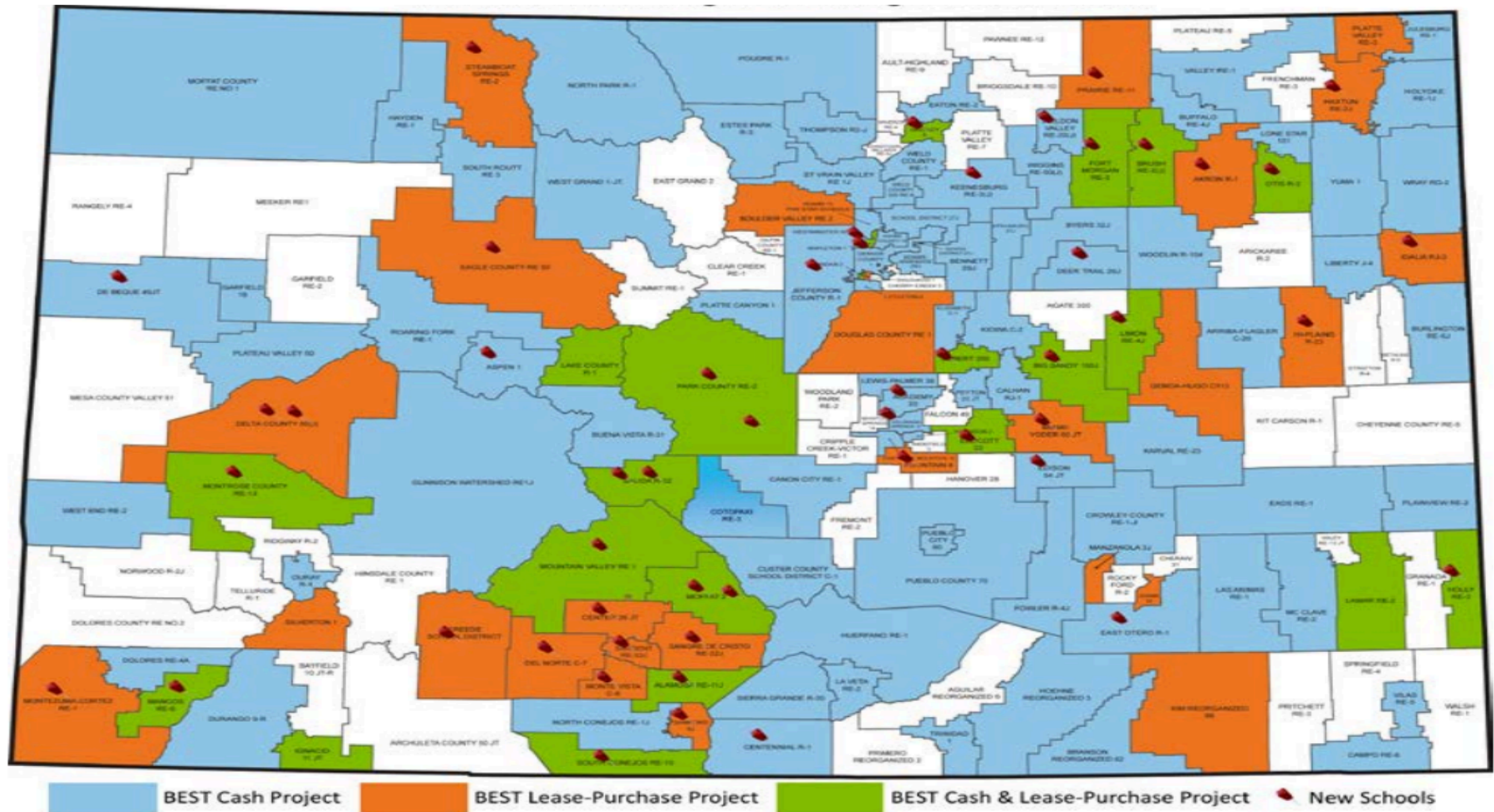
Revenues received by BEST by fiscal year and funding sources for the past five years (*through June 2017*)

# BEST Prioritization

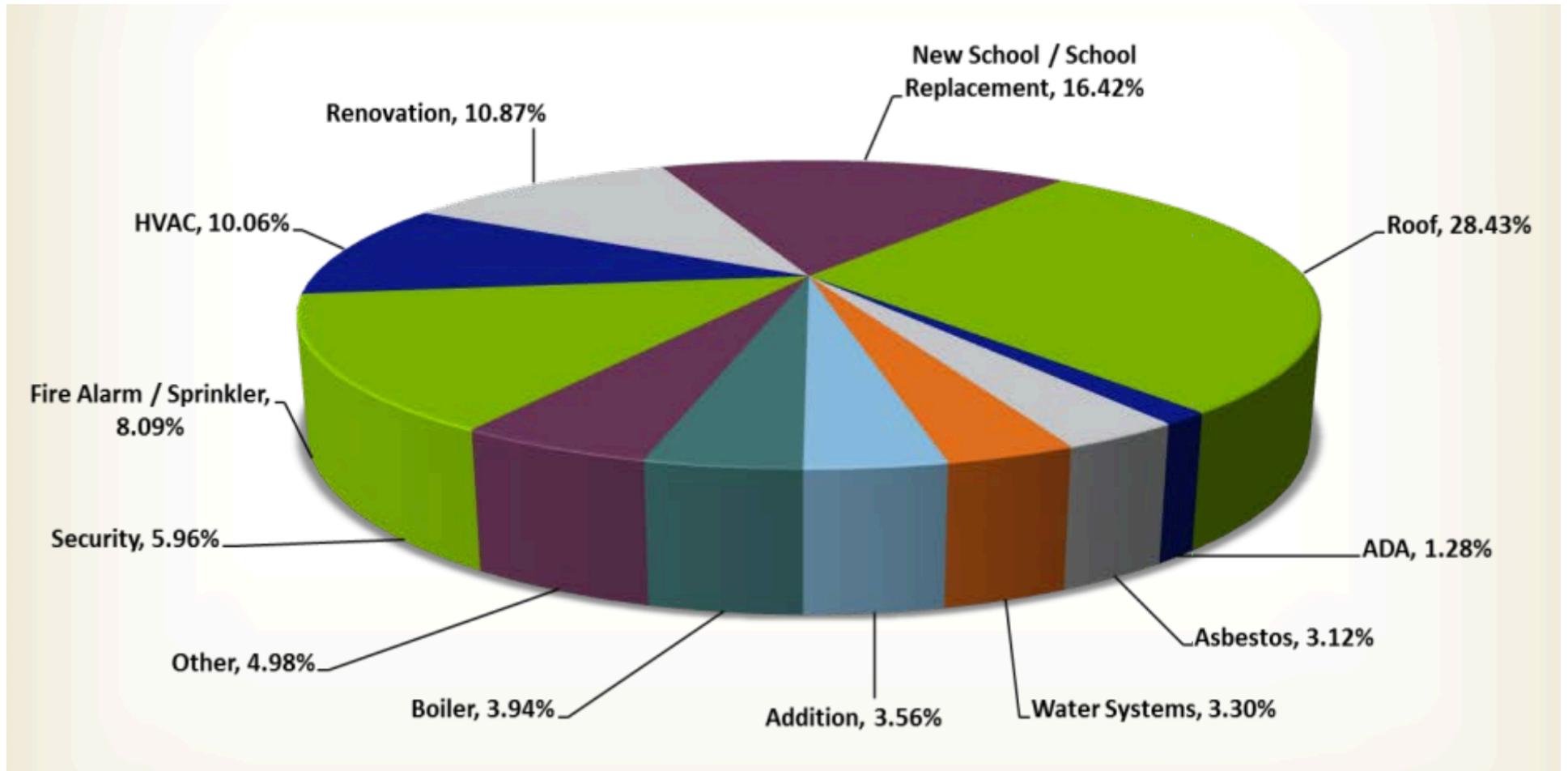
- Applications prioritized:
  - Health, safety, security issues & technology
  - Relieve overcrowding
  - Other capital needs
- Facility Insight
  - Physical condition assessment
  - Educational adequacy (suitability)



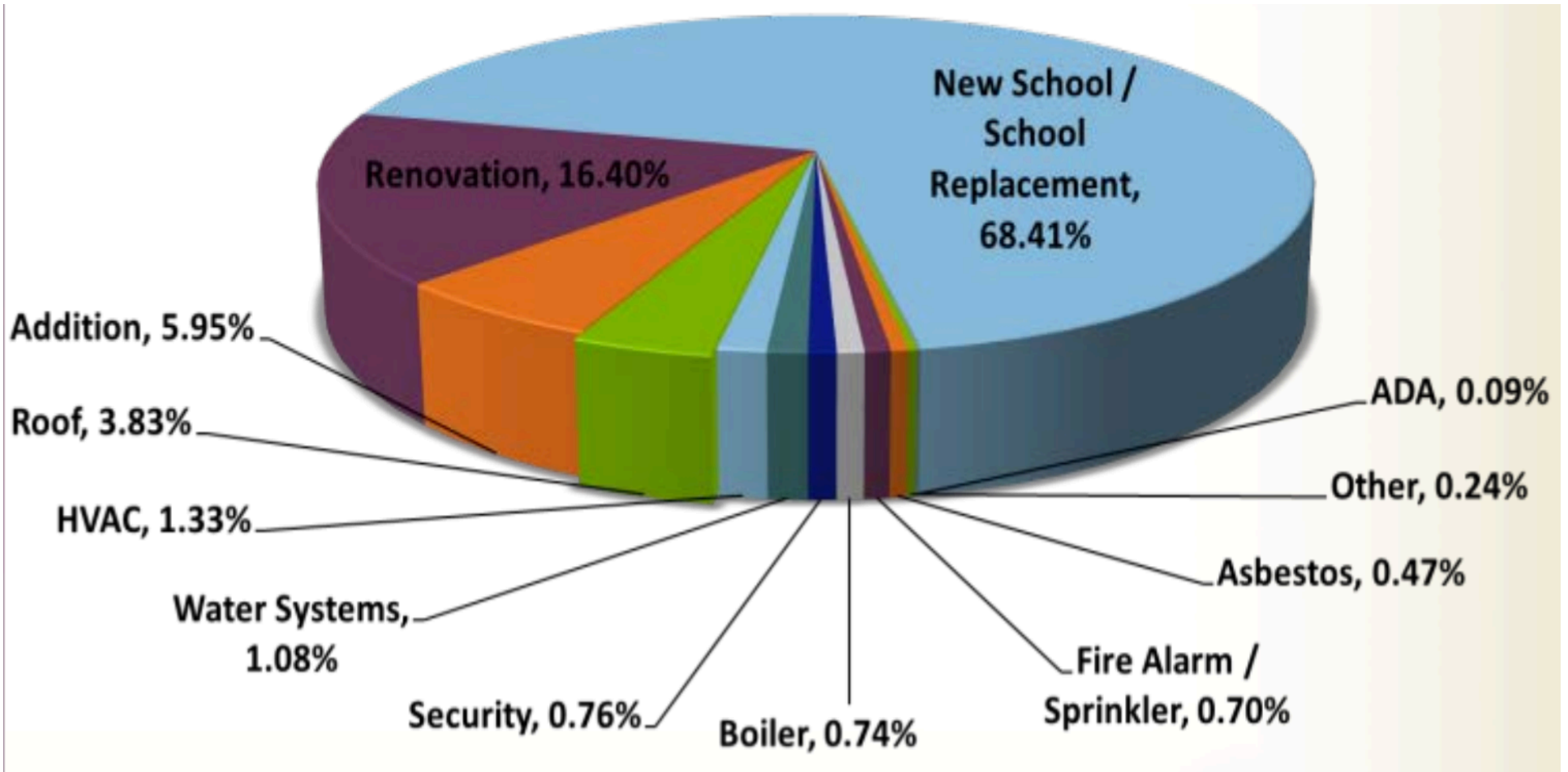
# Distribution of BEST Grant Funding



# BEST Projects Funded By Types



# BEST Projects Funded By Dollar Amount



# DISCUSSION

# **DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

# History of Local Schools in Colorado

- From 1876-1945, Colorado law allowed for the parents of 10 school-age children to petition the county superintendent to create a new school district.
  - Amended in 1945 to be 15 children
- 685 school districts within 10 years of statehood.
- Peaked in 1935 with 2,105 school districts.

# District Reorganization

- Reorganization began in earnest beginning in late 1940s and continued through the 1960s.
  - 181 districts in 1965
- Boards of Cooperative Services Act enacted in 1965 to help address economies of scale issues, such as serving low-incidence, high-cost special education students, mechanism for cooperative purchasing and shared services.
  - Stemmed the tide of school district reorganization

# District Reorganization

- School District Reorganization Act of 1992 allowed for “de-consolidation.”
  - In 2000, West Yuma School District RJ-1 was dissolved with two new districts formed – Yuma School District 1 and Liberty School District J-4
  - In 2000, East Yuma School District was dissolved with two new districts formed – Wray School District RD-2 and Idalia School District RJ-3



# District Names Reflect History of Reorganization

- Re, RE, R – reorganized.
  - “R” for those reorganized in 1953
  - “Re” for those reorganized through consolidation in 1959
- RD – reorganized/deconsolidated
- C – consolidated
- J, Jt, (J) – joint, crosses county lines
- RJ, REJ, Jt-R – reorganized joint

# District Organization

- El Paso County has 15 districts; Weld County has 12 districts; Adams and Arapahoe counties each have 7 districts.
- 148 school districts comprise ~16% of state's total student population
  - 88 districts have less than 500 students
  - 109 of 178 districts meet the definition of “small rural”
  - 39 of 178 districts meet the definition of “rural”

# **WORKING GROUPS**

# Working Groups

- Move from general description to in-depth description and analysis.
  - What is happening with whom and why?
  - Checking system performance against values
- Begin design work consistent with stated values to improve system effectiveness and efficiency.

# Working Groups

- Revenues – state and local.
- Addressing student needs.
- Addressing school and district needs.
- Performance and accountability.